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December 16, 1925.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours under date of the 8th instant, with above citation, transmitting copy of letter from Mr. G. W. Hurley of ~~Wasson~~ ^{Wasson} field, California, having reference to Tejon Band of Indians in Kern County ~~and certain Indians residing on a rancharia near North Fork, Madera County, California.~~

The Indians near North Fork were visited recently and before your letter had been received when their condition was ascertained. It was learned that only three Indians residing thereon were in need and that the county is helping them to the extent of \$5 each per month in the way of food supplies. It is our intention to augment same in a like amount for a few months at least. These Indians actually reside on a rancharia and are considered entitled to aid.

The writer is leaving for the south this afternoon on official matters among which will be a visit to the Tejon Band for the purpose of ascertaining their actual present condition, although no change from ~~what~~ ^{what} has been for several years is anticipated. The Tejon Band, as you know, are allowed to continue their home status on the land they have occupied for many years, by the Tejon Ranch Company, and are given preference for their labor by the ranch people, so long as they do not make further claim to the land so occupied.

Mr. Hurley ~~will also~~ ^{will also} be interviewed after my investigation at the rancharia ~~has been made~~ ^{has been made} and the facts in the premises known.

The Office directs in letter above mentioned that relief is to be extended to the Tejon Band to such extent as may be within my ability. In this connection your attention is respectfully invited to your letter of October 28, 1925, E-I 66770-25, having reference to circular No. 2145, with request that further instruction be given as regard the Tejon Band, advising as to whether or not under the circumstances they are to be

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considered as Federal ward status and entitled to Governmental relief in case of indigency. Kindly make this special as it may be necessary to act promptly in the premises if relief is found to be needed. It should be determined as to whom the obligation of relief belongs before any definite action is taken. The Tejon Band live somewhat in rancheria custom and consider themselves in that status.

Further report will be made following my investigation.

Yours very truly,

L. A. Dorrington,
Superintendent.

LAD/GH